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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/145,690	09/02/98	LONG JR.	C 97-106CIP

COHEN & GRIGSSBY, P.C.
11 STANWIX STREET
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PITTSBURGH PA 15222

QM12/1011

EXAMINER	
HYLTON, R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3727	15

DATE MAILED:

10/11/00

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

*See attached letter &
IDS.*

Art Unit: 3727

Response Supplemental to Decision

1. It is the examiner's position that the after final amendment filed July 6, 2000, will not be entered. First, the proposed claim amendments create a new issue under 35 USC 112, second paragraph with respect to claim 1 (combination/subcombination issue). Secondly, the proposed amendments do not overcome the rejections set forth in the previous Office action and are not allowable. And third, the proposed claim amendments do not materially reduce the issues, but rather creates another (under 35 USC 112, second paragraph).

2. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (703)305-3579. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin Hylton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers should be directed to Ebony Smith at (703)305-3570.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3579.

Robin A. Hylton/rah

October 4, 2000



Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use separate sheets if necessary)



Docket Number

97-106 C

Application Number

09/145,690

Applicant(s)

Charles J. Long, Jr.

Filing Date

September 2, 1998

Group Art Unit

3754

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
DA		5,657,906	08/1997	Rapchak et al.			
RA		5,662,247	09/1997	Rapchak et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

R. H. H. H.

DATE CONSIDERED

10/2/00

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.